

“The time has come for change at VAMC John Cochran.”

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Todd Akin (MO-2), Chairman of Sea Power and Projection Forces today called on Eric Shinseki, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to initiate a full-review of the VAMC John Cochran following the suspension of surgeries because of yet another breach of sterilization protocols.

In a letter to Shinseki, Akin referenced a series of irregular practices at the hospital and its dismal reputation of putting veteran’s health at risk. The letter included the following:

“Until there is a serious, public reform of the St. Louis VAMC, including holding senior staff accountable, we cannot in good conscience at this time seek additional funding and support expanded programs at a VA medical center that does not perform its current mission. If John Cochran were a ship or a military unit, the commander would have already been relieved and a comprehensive Inspector General investigation would have been launched. Instead, you are telling the veterans of the greater St. Louis area that everything is under control, when they know full well that is not the case.”

The full letter is attached.